

DAVENTRY BOROUGH COUNCIL



THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1942.

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By:- S. Leff, M.D., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.



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DAVENTRY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1942

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. David J. Jones, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H., held a full time appointment as District Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Medical Officer of Health to the Northamptonshire County Council, his duties extending to the Boroughs of Daventry and Brackley and the Rural Districts of Daventry, Brackley and Brixworth, while by his appointment under the County Council he was responsible for the examination of elementary school children in those areas, and in addition conducted Child Welfare Clinics at Daventry, Brackley, Moulton, Brixworth and Welford.

Dr. Jones was released from his appointment on the 26th November of the year under review to join H.M.Forces.

Dr. G. K. Thompson was appointed on the 16th November 1942 to fill the vacancy. Owing to the sudden death of Dr. Thompson on the 27th December, the appointment again became vacant and continued so during the remainder of the year under review.

Sanitary Inspector.

The duties of Sanitary Inspector are carried out by Mr. F. Bailey, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Certificated Foods Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Mr. Bailey is also acting as Rate Collector and Valuation Officer etc. during the war.

Area.

The area of the Borough is 3,633 acres.

Population.

The population of the Borough by the census of 1931 was 3,608 - Males 1783, Females 1825. The population by the census of 1921 was 3,518, giving a net increase of 90 persons during the ten years.

The population to-day is estimated to be 4,600.

INHABITED HOUSES.

The number of inhabited houses is 1,088.

RATEABLE VALUE.

The Rateable Value of the Borough is £25,945.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £102.10.0d.

HEALTH OF THE INHABITANTS.

The health of the inhabitants has been good during the past year, only nine cases of infectious disease were notified.

BIRTH RATE.

The number of live births registered in the town during the year was 55 - Males 25, Females 30; of these 2 Males and 1 Female were illegitimate.

Two legitimate and one illegitimate children died before reaching the age of one year.

The birth rate for the year is 13.8 per 1000 of estimated population.

There were no still-births.

DEATH RATE.

The number of deaths registered in the town is 41 - Males 24, Females 17. This gives a death rate of 10.3 per 1000 of estimated population.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All Infants per 1000 Live Births	54.5
Legitimate infants per 1000, Legitimate Live Births.	38.5
Illegitimate infants per 1000, Illegitimate Live Births.	333.3

MORTALITY.

The mortality from different causes during the year 1942 is as follows:-

	Males	Females
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	3
Other Tuberculosis	-	1
Influenza	1	-
Cancer of the Breast	-	1
Cancer of all other sites	2	-
Diabetes	1	1
Intercranial vascular lesions	3	2
Heart Diseases	4	4
Other Diseases of Circulatory System.	-	1
Bronchitis	1	-
Pneumonia	1	-
Other digestive Diseases	1	-
Nephritis	3	2
Premature Births.	2	-
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury.	1	-
Road Traffic Accidents.	2	-
All other causes		2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	24	17
	<hr/>	<hr/>

INFANT WELFARE AND NURSING FACILITIES.

There is a Child Welfare Centre in the Town at Foundry Place Schools on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Doctor attends on the fourth Tuesday of each month and children can be immunised on this day. This and the Health Visiting are under the supervision of the County Council.

The District Nursing arrangements, which are maintained by Voluntary Contributions, are managed by a Local Committee. This Committee is affiliated to the Northamptonshire County Nursing Association.

INFECTIOUS SICKNESS.

During the year 1942 there were nine cases of Infectious Sickness notified:-

Scarlet Fever	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3
Other Tuberculosis	1
Erysipelas	1
Measles	1
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	9
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The three cases of Scarlet Fever occurred at the Public Assistance Institution. All were residents from the Daventry Rural District. They were removed to Staverton Hospital and all recovered.

Of the three cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified, two died within a very short time of notification, the third has since died.

No case of Diphtheria occurred during the year.

No case of Small Pox, Enteric Fever or Ophthalmic Neonatorum occurred in the Borough during the year.

In all cases of Infectious Sickness, the homes are visited, all requisite enquiries made and disinfection is carried out.

The bedding is always destroyed after a death from Tuberculosis or Cancer, and the owners compensated for the loss.

Infectious Disease cases, where necessary, are removed to the Western Joint Hospital Board's Infectious Hospital at Staverton.

Tuberculosis cases where suitable are received at Rushden Sanatorium or at the Manfield Hospital.

For non-infectious illnesses the Northampton General Hospital or the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby, are usually used by the inhabitants of the Town.

A motor ambulance is kept in the town to convey patients to either of these premises.

DIPHTHERIA.

During the year 1941 there were five cases of Diphtheria in the Borough, one died.

All these cases occurred in children who were not immunised.

There was no case of Diphtheria among the children who were immunised.

In the Borough in 1941-1942, 96 children under five years of age were immunised, leaving 174 not immunised. Over five years of age, 527 were immunised, leaving 92 not immunised.

While the percentage of immunised school children is high, 85.1%; among children under 5 years of age it is very low, 34.4%.

In order to avoid further cases and possible deaths from Diphtheria, it is essential that Mothers have their children immunised as early as possible after the age of one year.

The cases in the County confirm this finding. Among 36,259 children immunised in the County, one case of Diphtheria occurred and there was no death, while among 19,413 children not immunised, 101 cases of Diphtheria occurred with 15 deaths.

Children are immunised at the Infant Welfare Centre on the fourth Tuesday of each month and at the School Medical Inspection sessions at the Schools.

Application for immunisation should be made to the Health Visitor, Nurse Waugh, Long Buckby, Rugby, or to the Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspector at the Moot Hall, Daventry.

SCABIES 1942.

There were 10 cases notified during the year, 7 were removed to the Public Assistance Institution for treatment. The remaining three were treated at home.

Cases are treated at home under the supervision of their Doctor and/or the Health Visitor, or removed to Hospital when facilities for treatment are not available at home.

All bedding is removed to the Public Assistance Institution and passed through the steam disinfecter, the rooms at home are disinfected.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply of the houses is from the Town supply. All water before entering the mains is softened by the Softol process and chlorinated. Samples are taken at frequent intervals and no unsatisfactory report was received during the year

All houses in the Borough with the exception of a few outlying ones, and the houses on the West side of the Bypass on the Badby Road are connected to the sewer.

It is impossible to connect the last-mentioned houses to the existing sewer as they are too low. Each is therefore provided with a septic tank. These generally prove satisfactory, but three during the year gave some trouble through faulty construction. This was remedied and they are now working satisfactorily.

HOUSING.

Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts.	121
Number of inspections made for the purpose	143
Number of dwellinghouses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit	38
Number remedied by service of Preliminary Notice	20
Number remedied after service of Statutory Notice	18

Public Health Acts.

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served.	8
Number where defects were remedied by Owner.	8
Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were determined after being made fit.	1

OVERCROWDING.

As this is a reception area and a considerable number of Evacuees were brought into the Town, a certain amount of overcrowding took place.

A few houses are still overcrowded, but the matter will be remedied when it is possible to build more houses.

During the year, number of drains blocked and later cleaned	35
New W. C. pans fitted	9
Flushes repaired	11

One house which had been closed, was put into a decent state of repair and re-let to try to help alleviate the overcrowding.

There is considerable difficulty in getting repairs carried out owing to shortage of labour and building material.

FOOD.

During the year the following food has been surrendered as being unfit:-

28 lbs of Kippers
98 lbs of Cod Filletts.
39 lbs of Beef
52 lbs of Bacon
63 lbs of Gammon.

The following tins of food were badly blown or defective and the contents were unfit for human consumption. The tins were surrendered and destroyed.

16 X 6lb tins of Pork Luncheon Meat.
1 X 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb tins of Pork Sausage Meat.
2 X 6 lb tins of Corned Beef.
7 X 14 lb tins of Cooked Gammon.
3 X 14 oz tins of Herrings.
2 X 14 oz tins of Kippers.
3 X 1 gallon of Plums.
96 X 14 oz. tins of Evaporated Milk.

Total 126 lbs of Fish, 39 lbs of Beef,
115 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of Gammon and Bacon,
212 lbs of Tinned Meat and Fish.
3 gallons of Plums, and
84 lbs of tinned Evaporated Milk.

MILK SAMPLES.

During the year 16 samples of raw milk and 8 of Pasteurised Milk were taken and forwarded to Northampton for examination.

The results were very disappointing. Of the raw Milk 8 were returned as good, three as moderate and five as bad. Of the Pasteurised six were satisfactory and two unsatisfactory.

The two unsatisfactory samples of Pasteurised and three of the five samples of raw milk returned as bad were produced outside the Borough.

On receipt of a bad report, the premises where the milk was produced in the Borough, are visited at once. If produced outside the Borough, the matter is brought to the notice of the Sanitary Inspector of the district where the milk is produced.

In most instances it was found the unsatisfactory samples were the result of the milk being insufficiently cooled.

All Bakehouses, Butchers' Shops and premises where food is prepared, Cowsheds and Dairies, are visited at frequent intervals and are generally found to be in a satisfactory state.
